AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 71, please replace the last paragraph bridging page 72, with the following new paragraph:

At Step 400, the discriminant function data 446d is acquired, and at Step 410, a histogram of each category is generated with respect to discriminant functions. More specifically, the parameter value data 446d and pass/fail judgment result data 446c are required. Then, the individual parameter values are substituted into parameters defined as variables of the discriminant function data 446 d to compute the value of Z. Based on the acceptability thereof, frequency is measured for pass and for fail to generate the histogram. The thus generated histogram is plotted, for example, as illustrated in FIG. 20. The ~~distributions~~ distribution of the individual ~~categories are~~ category is represented substantially in normal distribution, and the bottoms thereof overlap each other. In actual board inspection, the number of distributions of fail category is often significantly smaller than plotted in the figure.